

Reference Registry
10-6236/1

Draft of Proposed Reply to Mrs. Robert Newcomb

Mrs. Robert Newcomb

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Dear Mrs. Newcomb:

Your letter of 15 July 1958 to the President has been referred to me for reply.

As I read your letter, I was both impressed and moved by the contribution and sacrifice which your family has made in the Armed Services. I can appreciate that the effect which the course of world events will have upon the future of this country and upon us as individuals is a matter of particular interest to you.

You asked whether we have in the Government any active form of intelligence, either Navy, Army or Air Force. We have all three.

In part, as a result of the Pearl Harbor surprise attack, there was also established in 1947, under the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency. The primary reason for establishing this Agency was the need for a centralized intelligence organization to alert our Government to such developments before they occur.

Daily intelligence reports, summarizing world developments of the previous twenty-four hours, are prepared by the CIA and coordinated with other members of the intelligence community

NSC review(s) completed.

including the Army, Navy and Air Force Intelligence organizations. These reports are furnished to the President and to key Government officials in the early morning of each day. In addition, National Estimates to cover broad fields of intelligence are prepared for the guidance of the policy makers. Also each week the Director of Central Intelligence presents to the National Security Council important developments in the foreign field and he personally briefs the President at such other times as may be necessary.

Although the exact timing of the Iraq coup was not foretold, this Government was fully alert to the general area threat which faced not only Iraq but also Lebanon and Jordan. You will recall that within a matter of hours after the Iraq coup American forces landed in response to the urgent request of the Government of Lebanon.

While it is next to impossible to predict in advance every world development, you may be sure that the Government is making every possible effort to assure that we will be prepared for the rapidly changing world events.

Sincerely,

Gordon Gray
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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10-6236/1

12 AUG 1958

Mr. James S. Lay, Jr.
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

In line with our telephone conversation and your subsequent memorandum of August 6, I am enclosing a draft reply to a letter from Mrs. Robert Newcomb, for the signature of Mr. Gordon Gray.

Signed

[Redacted]
Executive Officer

O/DCI [Redacted] jnf 11 Aug 58

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